

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3-27-09
SB 446



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March 25, 2009

TO: Rep. Arlene Becker, Chair
House Human Services Committee

RE: Senate Bill #446

Dear Chair Becker:

I am writing on behalf of Rocky Mountain Health Network which is a large provider hospital organization with its main headquarters in Billings, Montana. The members of Rocky Mountain Health Network strongly support Senate Bill #446 which would allow specialty hospitals to be built under certain conditions. The conditions outlined in this Bill represent a good compromise which would allow physicians and hospitals to joint venture to create synergies that would be both to the benefit of not only the providers and hospitals but moreover to the community at large. We feel that under certain circumstances such arrangements could be quite helpful to emphasize and promote excellence in certain service lines such as those mentioned in the Bill in fields such as orthopedics and cardiology.

Rocky Mountain Health Network has over 200 physician members, over 200 allied health professionals and 7 hospitals as members. Our largest hospital member is St. Vincent Healthcare headquartered in Billings.

We hope the Committee will vote favorably on this Bill and that the legislation will be enacted. We feel that under the conditions of the Bill this legislation would position Montana to have a favorable mechanism by which specialty hospitals could meaningfully contribute to the overall healthcare delivery in the state of Montana.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Cook, MD, MHA, CPE
President/CEO